AeroGraphics

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APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

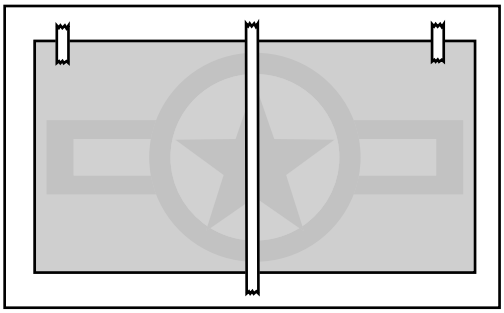
Thank you for choosing AeroGraphics. Below you will find a few common application methods. Choose the method which best fits your application but most of all, choose the method you are most comfortable with. Start with your smallest graphics first and focus on your technique before you tackling the larger designs. If you have any questions, please call 1-800-336-9633.

BEFORE YOU START: A dirt and oil free surface is crucial for a long lasting application. Any standard household cleaner/de greaser should do the job. Static may transfer debris from the graphic backing to the surface so wipe off the surface one last time just before you squeegee.

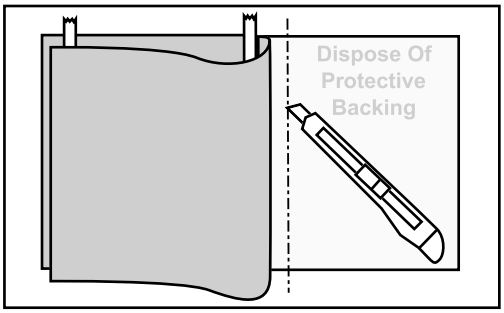
CENTER HINGE METHOD (Dry Application)

The center hinge method works well with all different shapes and sizes of graphics. It allows you to firmly hold the graphic in place wile working with half of it at a time. Depending on the size of your design, it may be a good idea to have a friend help you hold the material.

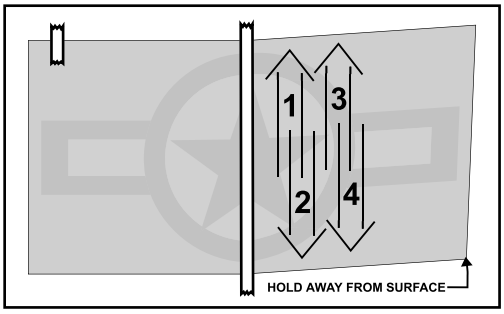
HINT: Pay attention to the shape of your surface when placing the hinge (specifically curved surfaces). Pick a location and direction which will allow you to fold back the graphic without buckling. If this happens, relocate your hinge.



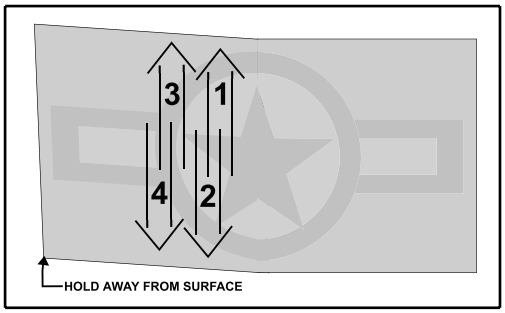
1. Position the graphic and hold it in place with masking tape. Apply a strip of masking tape through the center of the graphic to make a hinge.



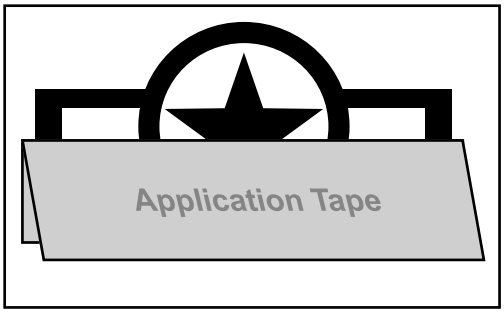
2. Fold half of the graphic back over the hinge and peel it away from protective backing. Cut the protective backing along the hinge and discard.



3. Hold the graphic at a slight angle away from the surface. Firmly squeegee the graphic beginning at the center of the hinge. Use long, overlapping strokes.



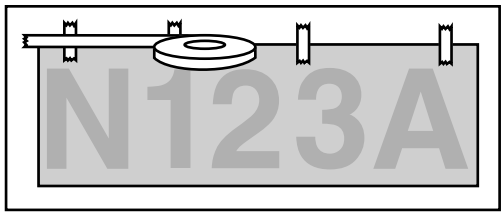
4. Remove remaining masking tape and apply the other side using the same technique.



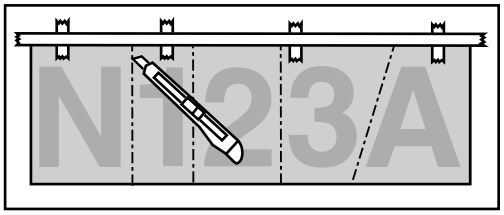
5. Carefully remove the application tape by slowly pulling back at a sharp angle. It is OK to tear the application tape into manageable sized pieces.

TOP HINGE METHOD (Dry Application)

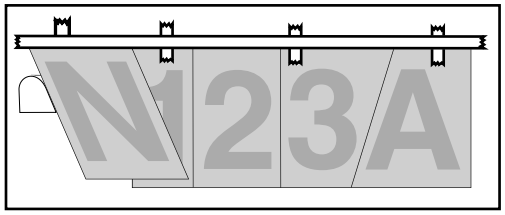
If your graphic consists of several pre-spaced elements, this method will allow you to install it in smaller, more manageable sections. A good example of this is an aircraft registration number. Each character is a separate graphic and the application tape is keeping them properly spaced. You can cut the number apart and apply one character at a time.



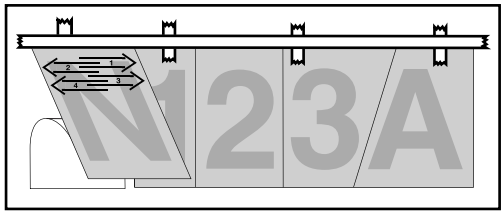
1. Position the graphic and hold it in place with masking tape. Apply a strip of masking tape across the top of the graphic to make a hinge.



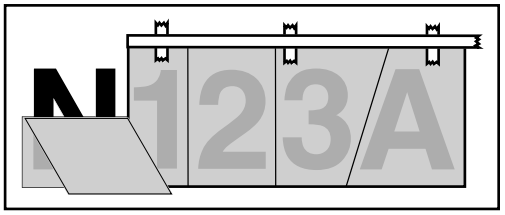
2. If your graphic consists of pre-spaced characters, you can between the letters to make the job more manageable. Make sure each section is secure before cutting.



3. Pull the protective backing away near the top hinge. Do not completely remove the backing or let the exposed adhesive make contact with the surface.



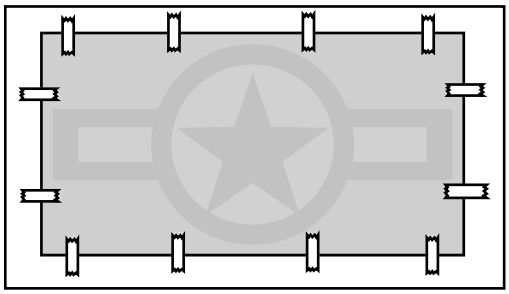
4. Firmly squeegee the graphic starting at the top hinge. Use long overlapping strokes. Pull away more protective backing as needed. Repeat this process for all sections.



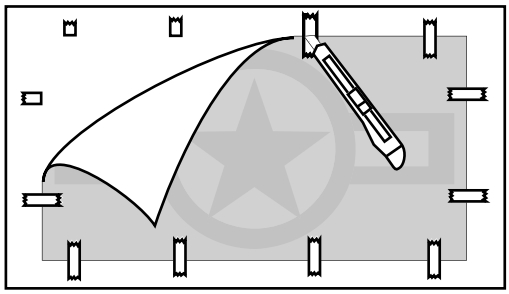
5. Carefully remove the application tape by slowly pulling back at a sharp angle. It is OK to tear the application tape into manageable sized pieces.

WET APPLICATION

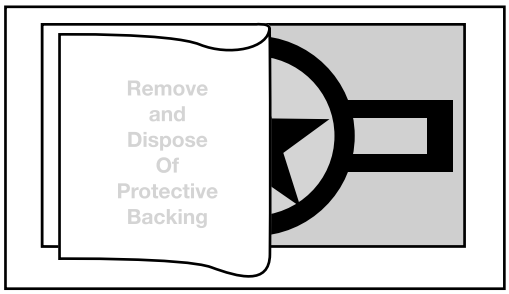
The wet application method uses a simple fluid to prevent the graphic from immediately sticking to your surface. This gives you time to work with the material and encourages the release of bubbles. You can even move the graphic around before you squeegee out the application fluid. This is a great method for large graphics and striping but you can use it on any size.
HINT: It is best to apply your graphic in a shaded area. Direct sunlight will cause the application fluid to evaporate quickly.



1. Use several pieces of masking tape to position the graphic. Place extra pieces of tape around the parameter of the graphic.

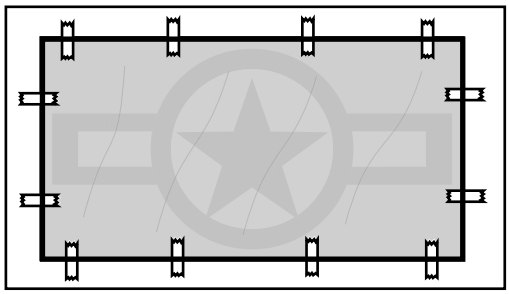


2. Score the masking tape along the edge of graphic. Remove the graphic from the surface. The masking tape will be your reference marks during final installation.

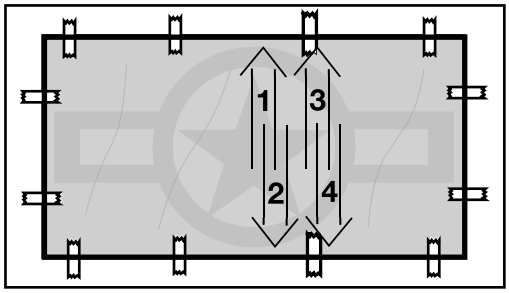


3. Place the graphic face down on a clean, flat surface. Peel away the protective backing exposing the adhesive. Do not let anything touch the exposed backing.

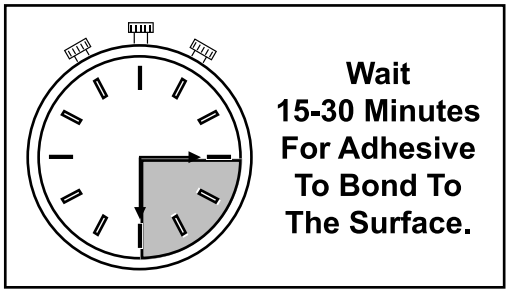
4. Generously spray both the adhesive of the graphic and the surface with application fluid. From this point on, remoisten any areas which start to dry before you get a change to work with the material.



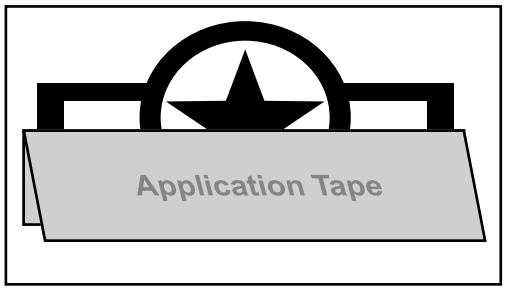
5. Using the masking tape pieces as reference, gently place the graphic against the surface. If necessary, pull the graphic away and relocate it.



6. Firmly squeegee the graphic beginning at the center. Use long, overlapping strokes. When you finish one side, repeat the process for the other side.



7. Wait 15-30 minutes for the adhesive to bond to the surface. If the decal easily pulls away from the surface during step 8, wait a little longer and try again.

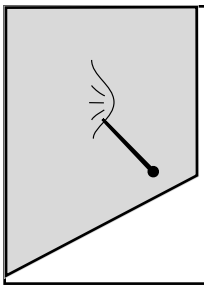


8. Carefully remove the application tape by slowly pulling back at a sharp angle. It is OK to tear the application tape into manageable sized pieces.

RIVETS

There are times when you may have to apply your graphic over rivets. With a little bit of care you can tackle those rivets without a problem.

- When you are squeegeeing the material to the surface, don't take the time to work on each rivet. Focus should be on applying the graphic flat to the surface between and after the rivets. Squeegee the entire graphic leaving an area around each rivet loose to work later. The material will stretch and "tent" over the rivet with a little bit of encouragement.
- After you have removed the application tape you can focus on each rivet. There will be an air pocket around the rivet preventing the material from contacting the surface. With a small pin, puncture a relief hole in the pocket. Using your thumb, gently press the graphic to the surface and around the rivet. Start on the opposite side of the pocket and work towards the puncture. The material will conform to the rivet.

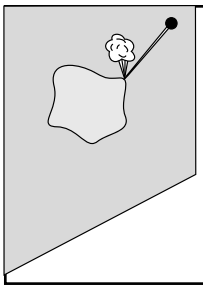


Allow material to stretch around the rivet. After the application tape has been removed puncture pocket with a pin and press down with your thumb.

BUBBLES

Even the best of applications may have a few bubbles but not all is lost. There are some simple things you can do to deal with bubbles.

- If the bubbles are small, wait a few days to see if they dissipate on their own. Direct sunlight and temperature changes can make a big difference. You can always puncture them later.
- If the bubble is larger or just won't go away on their own, you can puncture it with a small pin. Puncture the pocket on the edge and use your thumb to press the graphic to the surface. Start on the opposite side and work towards the puncture.



Puncture the bubble near the edge. Gently push down the bubble with your thumb. Start at the opposite edge and work your way to the puncture